

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
J. PAUL PLUMMER
EXXONMOBIL UPSTREAM RESEARCH COMPANY
CORP-URC-SW348
P.O.BOX 2189
HOUSTON, TX 77252-2189

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

16 FEB 2006

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003UR039		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US04/30669	International filing date (day/month/year) 20 September 2004 (20.09.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 November 2003 (06.11.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(8): F25J 1/00; F02C 6/18, 6/00; F02G 3/00; F01D 15/00 and US Cl.: 62/613, 611; 60/39.07, 39.05, 39.182, 39.3; 290/52		
Applicant EXXONMOBIL UPSTREAM RESEARCH COMPANY		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion 08 February 2006 (08.02.2006)	Authorized officer William C. Doerrler Telephone No. (571) 272-3750
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Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/30669

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

the international application in the language in which it was filed
 a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

on paper
 in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/30669

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-11</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-11</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-11 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Kikkawa et al (US 5,689,141) in view of Cohn et al (US 5,491,969). Kikkawa et al disclose applicants' basic inventive concept, a natural gas liquefying device which derives electrical energy from a starter motor/generator with a frequency converter to increase the frequency during start-up (see lines 1-27 of column 6) and using the motor generator to supplement the energy derived from the turbine if necessary, substantially as claimed with the exception of returning electricity to the electrical grid and showing the generator between the compressor and the turbine. Cohn et al show these feature to be old in the compressor/turbine/generator art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicants' invention from the teaching of Cohn et al to modify the liquefying/generating system of Kikkawa et al by using grid electricity to start the system with energy being returned to the grid when possible to use available energy for start-up and to supply the energy where it can be best utilized and to place the generator between the compressor and the turbine to ensure proper energy transfer to the generator. In regard to claims 3,4,10 and 11, it is noted that pulse width modulation and modular construction are well known in the frequency converter art and as such would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner in the art.

Claims 1-11 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus possess industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.